

Merle J. Duryea collection

S395

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Books and Manuscripts
140 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204
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Summary Information

Repository	Rare Books and Manuscripts
Title	Merle J. Duryea collection
Date	1892-1939
Extent	0.01 Cubic feet 1 folder
Language	English
Text [Folder]	S395

Preferred Citation

Merle J.Duryea collection, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library

Biographical Note

Merle J. Duryea was the son of Charles E. Duryea, who died on September 28, 1938. Charles invented the first gasoline motor vehicle in America, which was able to run by its own power on April 19, 1892. Charles E. and J. Frank Duryea were brothers who lived in Springfield, Massachusetts. Frank helped his brother with his invention of an automobile.

Scope and Contents

This collection includes photostats along with original postcards and other documents pertaining to Charles E. Duryea's invention of the first automobile in Springfield, Massachusetts in 1892.

On January 1, 1939, Merle J. Duryea, son of Charles J. Duryea, prepared a list of 19 documents as proof of his father being the inventor of the first automobile. These documents cover the time period from 1892 through 1937. Notes are written on the backs of most of the items, along with the stamped signature of Chas E. Duryea and "M.J. Duryea, 17 Farmington Avenue, Longmeadow, Mass." Charles E. Duryea died on September 28, 1938. Based on the two signatures of the father and son, it appears that the notes were written by the son, Merle J. Duryea. There is a list of documents numbered 1 through 19 giving the description of each item. According to Mary C. Clune, Ph.D., who wrote in 1930: "his crowning achievement was the selection of the internal combustion engine with spray carburetor and advanced electrical ignition which seems to have been brought about by his aviation studies and worked out on the motor vehicles; that his first motor vehicle made a self-propelled pulling test on April 19, 1892..."

Arrangement

This collection is arranged in numerical order, which Merle J. Duryea assigned to the documents he contributed.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Rare Books and Manuscripts

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Legal title, copyright, and literary rights reside with Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, IN. All requests to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted to Rare Books and Manuscripts.

Custodial History

This collection was received by Rare Books and Manuscripts as a donation from Merle J. Duryea on 1939/01/28.

Accruals

No further additions are expected.

Processing Information

Collection processing and finding aid completed 2014/05/22 by Nikki Stoddard Schofield.

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- Massachusetts

Subject(s)

- Automobiles
- Inventions
- Photostat

- Postcards